



United States Department of State

*Office of Foreign Missions
Washington, D.C. 20520*

NOTICE

Screening Procedures for Accredited Diplomats at U.S. Airports

The Transportation Security Administration has provided the attached memorandum regarding airport screening procedures for diplomats accredited to the United States and to international organizations. Missions are encouraged to provide a copy of the attached to diplomatic officers for their information.

July 11, 2007



TSA SCREENING PROCEDURES: DIPLOMATS ACCREDITED TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE UNITED STATES

A primary goal of TSA is to treat all passengers with courtesy, dignity, and respect during the security screening processes. In support of this goal TSA has trained its screeners in the proper treatment of passengers and their belongings. That specialized training includes accommodating passengers with appropriate diplomatic credentials.

When entering the security checkpoint area at an airport, each diplomat accredited to the United Nations mission of his/her country (at UN headquarters in New York City) or to the United States (in Washington, D.C.), should present his/her boarding pass with BOTH a valid diplomatic passport AND a valid blue-bordered ID card issued by the U.S. Department of State to the ticket/ID checker stationed outside the security screening area.

Advice to Diplomats Accredited to the United Nations or the United States:

Screening at the Checkpoint:

When you arrive at the checkpoint, the following tips will assist you in getting through the screening process easily and efficiently:

- Keep boarding pass and ID (your valid diplomatic passport AND your valid blue-bordered ID card issued by the U.S. Department of State) available;
- Remove all metal items in pockets, and any metal belt buckle, and submit them for X-ray screening;
- Remove shoes, especially boots, and put them on the X-ray belt; and
- Ensure your carry-on luggage does not contain any prohibited items.

Any alarm of the security screening process will be handled according to standard TSA operating procedures.

Private Screening

If there is an alarm of the security screening process, your screening may include a hand-wanding procedure and pat-down inspection. You may request a private area for your personal screening. The private area will either be a separate room or an area out of the view of the general public.

Private Baggage Screening

If it is necessary to open your carry-on baggage TSA will make every effort to do so discreetly. At most airports there are tables with sidewalls to protect your privacy.

TIP: We recommend that you think carefully about what private items you place in your carry-on baggage since your baggage may be opened and searched.

Special Procedures for Selectee Screening of Diplomats

If, for some reason, you are designated as a selectee for secondary screening, you should request to speak with TSA Supervisory Screener at the checkpoint and present your valid diplomatic passport AND your valid blue-bordered ID card issued by the U.S. Department of State to the TSA Supervisor. The Supervisor will ensure that special procedures for the screening of diplomats are complied with. You are encouraged to communicate with the TSA screener both before and during the screening process so that the screener is aware of your diplomatic status at all times.

A reminder notice will be issued to all TSA screening staff at U.S. airports to highlight the special procedures for accredited diplomats and to ensure these procedures are carried out.